

DDA 77-3816

1 July 1977

STATINTL MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Office of the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
STATINTL FROM : [REDACTED]  
Assistant for Information to the DDA  
SUBJECT : NFIB-9.1/30, 16 June 1977  
STATINTL REFERENCE : Your Note for [REDACTED] dtd 29 June 1977, re above  
subject

1. I have consulted with the Office of Security on referenced subject and the following represents our collective feelings relating to our previously indicated concern with certain proposed exemptions to the NFIB memorandum on paragraph security markings.

2. The proposed CIA comments on the draft NFIB memorandum concerning paragraph classification requirements include recommendations that HUMINT and PHOTINT information reports as well as operational correspondence be exempted from the paragraph marking requirement. We are reluctant to support these exemption proposals.

3. Our view in this regard is based on the following observations:

a. Executive Order 11652 directs that paragraph classification marking be implemented to the extent practicable. In our opinion the proposed exemptions for HUMINT and PHOTINT information reports and for operational correspondence are being suggested not on the basis of impracticability but on an argument that such marking is unnecessarily duplicative and not serving a useful purpose. In our view this same rationale might be applied to any document the contents of which have a homogeneous security classification. We feel, however attractive this argument may be, it is inconsistent with the spirit of E.O. 11652.

b. In looking at the proposed exemption categories, one might argue that they have been selected for the purpose of avoiding the paragraph classification marking in the Intelligence Community. In CIA, for example, "operational correspondence" might be interpreted to include virtually any memorandum directly or indirectly relating

to Agency operations. Critics could accuse us of promulgating a policy with so large a loophole that its application would cover only a small percentage of our classified material.

c. Allowing an exemption for "operational correspondence" at the very least would permit a spectrum of interpretation as to whether in a given document paragraph classification was required. In the Directorate of Operations it might be interpreted as a basis for classifying no correspondence. In other parts of the Agency, depending on the individual, such an exemption would be interpreted unevenly.

In summary, these observations taken together seem to us to suggest a negative approach to the paragraph classification requirement. We do not feel that the Agency should advertise a position of this tone. Further, from a practical standpoint, if certain types of reports pose a problem with respect to implementing paragraph classification markings, it would appear simpler to handle such problems by pushing for an authority to grant exceptions to the requirement. The request for this authority is already contained in the proposed CIA comments on the draft NFIB memorandum.

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Approved For Release 2002/01/08 : CIA-RDP80-00473A000700020003-4

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MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member, NFIB

VIA : Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM : [REDACTED]  
Chief, Publications & Presentations Group/DDI

SUBJECT : CIA Comments on Draft NFIB Memorandum  
on Paragraph Security Markings

REFERENCE : NFIB-9.1/30, 16 June 1977

1. Action Requested: The attached memorandum for your signature forwards CIA comments on the referenced NFIB draft to the Executive Secretary of NFIB.

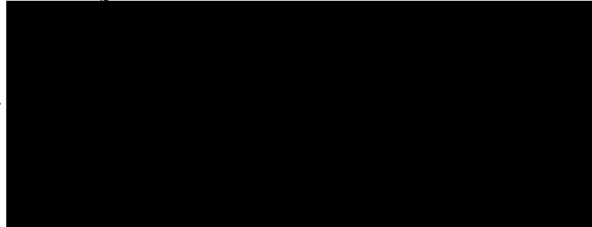
2. Background: NFIB has circulated in draft a proposed policy statement on paragraph security markings. In commenting on this draft, Agency components have recommended that the draft be modified to provide for:

- authority to grant exceptions to the requirement for paragraph markings,
- shorter abbreviations for control markings,
- the option to place all classification and control markings at the ends of paragraphs, and
- exemption of <sup>single name</sup> HUMINT and PHOTINT information reports and operational correspondence from paragraph markings.

3. Staff Position: Comments on the NFIB draft were solicited from all Directorates and independent staffs and offices. There is only one area of disagreement: The Office of Security and the Classification Officer of the DDA are concerned that the proposed exemption of HUMINT and PHOTINT information reports and operational correspondence is too broad and will work against uniform implementation.

SUBJECT: CIA Comments on Draft NFIB Memorandum  
on Paragraph Security Markings

4. Recommendation: That the attached memorandum be STATINTL  
signed and forwarded to the Executive Secretary of NFIB.



Attachments:

- A - NFIB-9.1/30, 16 June 77
- B - CIA Comments on Draft  
NFIB Memorandum

STATINTL

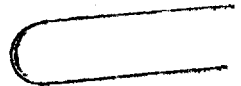
CONCUR:



Sayre Stevens  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

28 June 77

Date



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